



2011 Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update – Public Comments and Final Plan

Governing Board Meeting– 2/10/11

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Recent Milestones

- Released draft Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan (LOPP) update for public comments on Nov. 9, 2010
- Currently incorporating public comments into the Final LOPP update

Draft Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan

UPDATE



November 2010



LOPP Update Highlights

- Agricultural Best Management Practices – 1.153 million acres
- Regional Stormwater Treatment Area construction
- More than 30 other phosphorus reduction projects
- Alternative technologies
- Regulatory program revisions
- In-lake phosphorus management – organic sediment removal
- Dispersed water management – 89,307 acre-feet added
- Wetlands Reserve Program Fisheating Creek Special Project
- Exotic vegetation management/treatment
- Research and water quality monitoring



Outreach Activities

Meetings held:

- Northern Everglades Interagency
- WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee
- WRAC
- SFWMD Governing Board
- Individual Stakeholders



Comments Received on Draft LOPP Update

- Audubon
- Everglades Foundation
- Sierra Club
- Ecosystem Watch
- Save Our Creeks, Inc.
- Florida Farm Bureau



Comment Categories

- Source Control
- Treatment/Storage
- Other



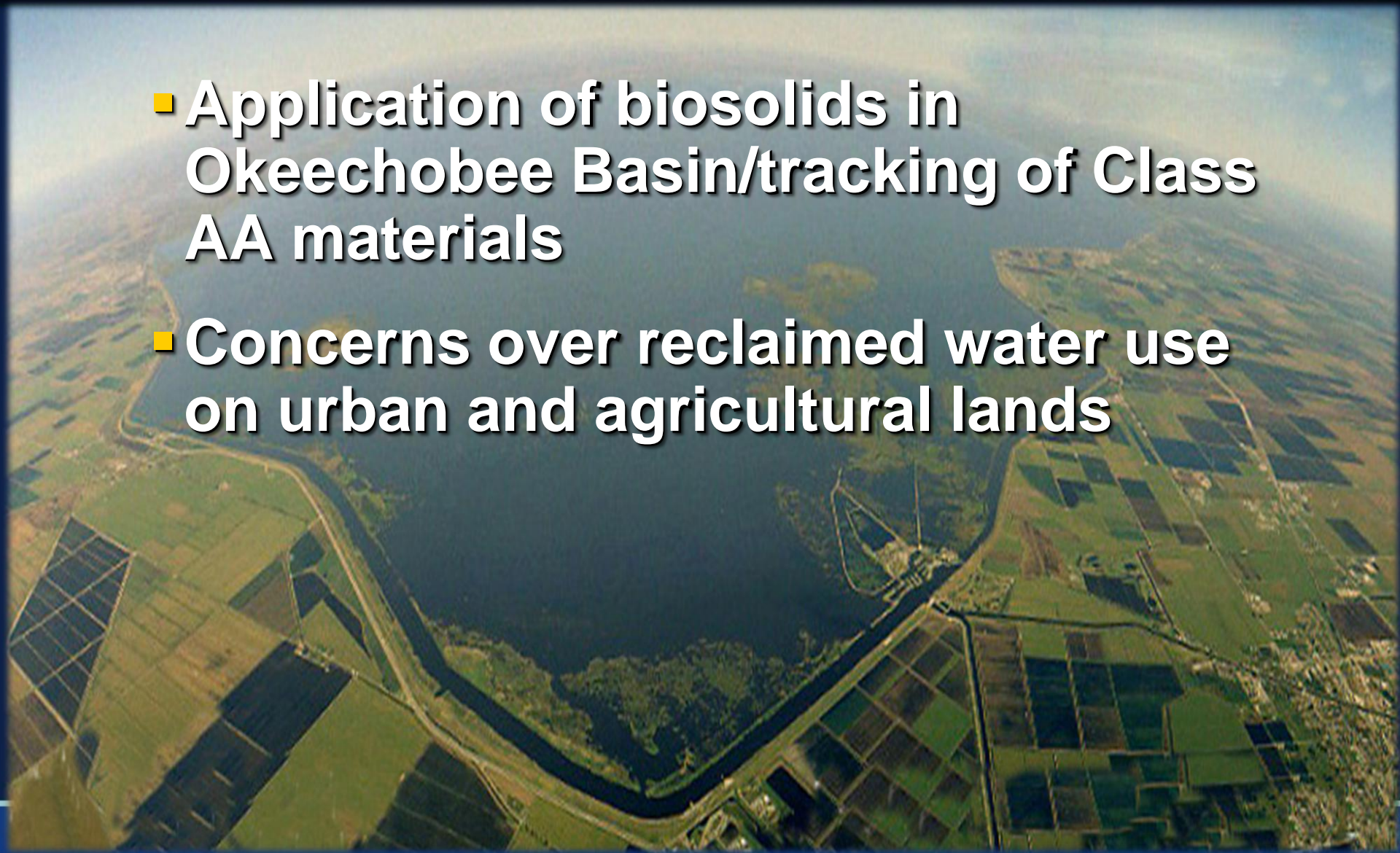
Public Comments – Source Control

- **Need for more aggressive source controls and regulatory programs**
- **Level of BMP implementation, BMP effectiveness and adequate funding**
- **Revision of BMPs to meet water quality goals – phosphorus application rates versus agronomic rates**
- **Implementation of edge of farm treatment**



Public Comments – Source Control (Cont.)

- Application of biosolids in Okeechobee Basin/tracking of Class AA materials
- Concerns over reclaimed water use on urban and agricultural lands





Public Comments – Treatment/Storage

- **Application of chemical treatment for regional projects**
 - **Lakeside Ranch Phase I**
- **Promote further research and development of alternative treatment technologies**



Public Comments – Treatment/Storage (Cont.)

- **Emphasize dispersed water management (DWM) projects/private-public partnerships to achieve storage goals in Northern Everglades**
 - While others propose including development of regional facilities in near-term
- **Construction of treatment features on private lands/partnerships with private investors**
- **Water quality monitoring to document performance and compliance of DWM projects**



Public Comments – Others

- **Concerns about accumulation of legacy phosphorus/in-lake sediments**
- **Prioritization of Kissimmee watershed for projects**
- **Need to identify additional projects to address 62 mt phosphorus reduction shortfall**



Public Comments – Others (Cont.)

- **Specific timeline and budget for entire plan implementation**
- **Backpumping concerns**





Next Steps

- Final LOPP update to the legislature in March 2011





Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update Resolution



- A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District accepting the 2011 Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan Update and directing staff to submit it to the Florida Legislature.

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Questions

